LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

1988 BEAR HARVEST REPORT

Art Patton

New regulations in 1988 required individual and separate bear hunting and bear snaring licenses. As well, separate seasons for hunting bear at registered bait stations and for snaring bears were prescribed.

This year 232 Resident Bear Hunting Licenses, 163 Resident Bear Snaring Licenses and 14 Non-Resident Bear Hunting Licenses were issued. The 1988 Bear Hunting Season was held during the last 2 weeks in September, and the Bear Snaring Season during the last 2 weeks of October.

Bear were not legal game during the 1988 Deer Hunting Season.

From the 112 report cards returned by resident bear hunters, 2 had no data and 24 (21.8%) reported killing a bear. If this proportion is representative of all licensed resident bear hunters, it indicates a calculated kill of 52 bears.

Of the 14 Non-Resident Hunters, 11 (78.6%) returned their cards and 5 (45.5%) reported a kill. A total harvest of 6 bears is calculated for non-resident hunters.

Of the 163 residents who purchased a Bear Snaring License, 96 returned usable report cards. Of these, 93.8% said they set snares and 48.9% said they harvested a bear. From this we calculated that 153 people snared 82 bears.

Participation and harvest are far below that reported in previous years when no licenses were required and deer hunters could take bear indiscriminately.

Both the Wildlife Division and the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation hope to develop a new appreciation for this important wildlife species. As people become more familiar with the opportunity and the rewards, we expect this to happen.

Table 1 lists by county the number of licenses sold and the calculated bear kill under each license.

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Table 1. *Black Bear Harvest and License Sales, Nova Scotia, 1988.*

County	Hunting Res. Lic.	Res. Harvest	Non-Res. License	Non-Res. License	Snaring License	Harvest	Total Harvest
Lunenburg	23	6			23	14	20
Queens	14	4	2		4	2	6
Shelburne	37	10			8	3	13
Yarmouth	44	6			13	0	6
Digby	12	0			11	10	10
Annapolis	15	8	7	6	13	14	28
Kings	4	0			10	2	2
Cumberland	14	2		19	9	11	
Colchester	7	0	5		11	7	7
Pictou	3	0			9	7	7
Antigonish	2	2				3	5
Guysborough	1	0			3	2	2
Halifax	29	8			20	7	15
Hants	10	4			7	0	4
Inverness	2	0			5	0	0
Victoria	7	2			2	2	4
Cape Breton	6	0			2	0	0
Richmond	2	0			3	0	0
Total	232	52	14	6	163	82	140